

# LINE COPY

Volume III, 2004 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



2004 Firefighter of the Year  
Master Technician Thomas J. Griffin



**Michael P. Neuhard**

**"I am thankful everyday for your willingness to serve, your professional execution of your duties, and your continuing contributions to our citizens, your shift, station, and the Department."**

## From The Fire Chief . . .

**G**reetings to all! As we approach the holidays, I would like to wish you all the very best for you and your family. I am thankful everyday for your willingness to serve, your professional execution of your duties, and your continuing contributions to our citizens, your shift, station, and the Department. I hope that you and your family have a safe, happy holiday season.

Thanks and congratulations to all of you who participated in community activities and partnerships with many internal and external County organizations during the last year. Special thanks to the Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics for record setting results in the Muscular Dystrophy Association campaign this year. Recognition and kudos go to the Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax County as they continue to be successful in food collections, winter coat collections, and the Holiday Toy Drive. This year's Incident Command and Safety Seminar sponsored and coordinated by the Fairfax County Fire Officers Association, was highly successful. The 2004 Equity Conference drew participants from across the country for new ideas and friendships. Our partnership with Norfolk Fire-Rescue and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs ensured the success of this year's conference. Thank you also for another successful Fire

Prevention Open House. I have seen numerous partnerships and community outreach efforts at the station level over the last year which have served to strengthen the community we serve. I encourage all of you to keep up the good work. I am proud of all of your efforts and successes in our day-to-day emergency response, fire prevention programs, and our community outreach initiatives.

Just a few quick updates... I have accepted the Protective Clothing Committee's report on the helmet study. The report, coupled with recommendations from the OSHA Committee and Operations, has convinced me to adopt the Phenix 1500-TL2 as our new standard. We will be putting an implementation plan and schedule together soon... Deputy Chief John Burke has been designated as the interim Altaris Stabilization Project Manager... The EMS Billing Project is progressing and we have hired a Project Manager, Katie Mangione... We expect the billing contract to be awarded around the first of the year... The RFP for the new handheld reporting system is on the street... The new high school emergency services program is up and running. . . Classes are held at Falls Church High School... Our next recruit school will start early in the New Year... Its final make-up has not been determined... We now have 26 personnel in the new Firefighter/Medic classification... We are still

Michael P. Neuhard, FireChief  
Dan Schmidt, Editor  
Jackie Lewis, Production Editor  
Scotty Boatright, Staff Photographer



*LINE COPY is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and is published by the Department's Public Information and Life Safety Education Section. Questions regarding deadlines or publication schedule should be addressed to Jackie Lewis at 703-246-3801. All submissions should be sent to the Public Information and Life Safety Education Section, marked "Attn: Editor, LINE COPY."*

# From The Editor . . .



**I**t appears that Line Copy and the FY 2004 Annual Report and 2005 Calendar will be published at around the same time this year. Actually, the calendar was distributed early, before Thanksgiving. We are again providing 200 copies per station for community outreach. Businesses, civic and community organizations, and schools are potentially good targets for this "nice-to-have" publication. It provides a good snapshot of our organization—who we are, what we do, where we are, what we've done, and how to get in touch with us. It also provides an interesting calendar strewn with value-added safety tips—it also gives everyone a shift schedule. A valuable communications tool to help connect with residents and the community. We hope that you'll make maximum use of the opportunity. If you need additional copies please call and we'll deliver.

As we get closer to the April 1, 2005, start time for EMS transport billing, it's important to note that we're undertaking a proactive public education campaign for county residents. We're developing a trifold brochure, video, fact sheet, multi-language flyers, a general information line, and a Speaker's Bureau. Solicitation for the Speaker's Bureau is currently underway. We're asking anyone who would like to participate to please call us. Presenters will have available a video tape, brochures, and other materials to use as tools for the various audiences. Most presentations will be brief, probably only 15-20 minutes. Please call us at 703-246-2244 to sign-up. Thanks in advance for your support in both of these important community initiatives. ❖

working on funding issues for the second set of firefighting gear... Station 40 construction remains on schedule... We are expecting the Diversity Task Force Report soon... The fall promotional exams are coming to a close with promotions soon to follow around the first of the year... The Volunteer Assessment is at the draft report stage... The next major initiative will be the unification of the Department's rank structure... More to come.

Please think and act safely. Treat each other courteously and professionally. Make a difference everyday. ❖

Sincerely,

Chief Neuhard

## This Issue . . .

From The Fire Chief .....	2
From The Editor .....	3
2004 Firefighter of the Year .....	4
Scott Combat Challenge Tour .....	5
111th Recruit School .....	6
American Red Cross .....	7
Physical Therapy Services .....	8
Thank You .....	9
Not Your Typical Elevator Incident .....	10
Thank You .....	11
Hot Shots .....	12
2004 Fire Prevention Week Open House .....	13
Department Patches .....	14
Large Loss Fire Investigations .....	16
Top 10 Activity Report .....	17
Awards & Presentations .....	19
Thank You .....	22
Taking Up .....	24
Retirements/Anniversaries/New Hires .....	26
Station Profile .....	28

# Master Technician Thomas J. Griffin Honored

By Captain II Daniel V. Gray  
EMS404, A-Shift

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Master Technician Thomas Griffin for his dedication to the organization and also to acknowledge his accomplishments during the past 24 years of his career in the Department.

This program does not tell the story of Tom Griffin; let me share my connection and my experiences with Tom over the past 21 years.

Tom is a skilled and knowledgeable individual with a proven ability to lead. He is a Master Technician at Fire and Rescue Station 18. He is a member of the Fourth Battalion Varsity, and a Technical Search Specialist with the Urban Search and Rescue Team of Virginia Task Force One.

However, I would like to add another view. As everyone will soon find out, this award is very humbling. It is the most prestigious award that our organization provides.

I would like to talk about the person—Tom Griffin. Tom is devoted to his beautiful family—his wife, Bebe, to whom he has been married for 18 years, his two children, Jennifer and Robert, and Tom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin. To all of you, I say thank you for sharing Tom with us. You may not be aware that Tom has another family away from home—the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Tom is much more than a co-worker. He is a brother to all of us here. Tom is always willing to offer assistance. He enjoys interacting with the community from providing directions to an address or giving tours to the local children—future firefighters and paramedics. If you live with or know someone that works shift work, you know that your friend or loved one is at work, away from home approximately 3,000 hours a year. This does not include commute time to and from the station. Tom has worked his share of holidays, holdovers, and committee work that has taken him away from his family. He is currently working with Lieutenant David P. Conrad on an invention to provide lifesaving breathing air with universal



Chief Michael P. Neuhard presents Master Technician Thomas J. Griffin with a leather helmet honoring him as the 2004 Firefighter of the Year.

hook-ups that any fire department can use if or when a rescuer becomes trapped and is running out of air. This device allows additional breathing air to any style of self-contained breathing apparatus while rescue efforts are at work freeing the trapped rescuer. This device may save one of our own brother or sister firefighters.

In the time Tom has spent away from home, he has been challenged both mentally and physically. In 1998, Tom was deployed to the bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. Just one year later, he was deployed on three separate earthquake disasters, which took him to Turkey and Taiwan. Two years later, he deployed to assist in the aftermath of the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, at The Pentagon.

I have known Tom my entire career. I have admired his enthusiasm and determination to better this organization, his fearlessness, and brave heartedness—all of this while at the same time balancing the day-to-day challenges of being a husband and a father to a wonderful family.

Tom—you made it.

I congratulate you—you earned it. ❖

**Editor's Note:** These remarks were delivered by Captain II Daniel V. Gray at the 2004 Firefighter of the Year ceremony August 9, 2004.

# Scott Combat Challenge Tour Held in Manassas, Virginia

**O**n Saturday, August 28, 2004, the Scott Combat Challenge Tour was held in Manassas, Virginia. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department personnel competed with over 100 teams and individual competitors.

The following are the results of the top five, other results will be posted on our website. ❖

## **Women - Fairfax Finest Team**

1<sup>st</sup> place relay team

Technician Stacie L. Lawton

Firefighter Marguerite D. Dabe-Colby

Firefighter Felicia N. Cooksey

Firefighter Annette LaGuardia

## **Individuals**

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Firefighter Felicia N. Cooksey

5<sup>th</sup> place - Firefighter Annette LaGuardia

## **Men - The Jakes**

3<sup>rd</sup> place relay team

Acting Technician Aron J. Corwin

Firefighter Craig S. Furneisen

Firefighter Brenden J. Petersburg

Firefighter Marc O. Saldivar

## **Team Fairfax**

(Total high team score)

Firefighter Brian C. Edmonston

Firefighter Jeffrey W. Tincer

Lieutenant Rodney S. Vaughan

Captain I Jerome I. Williams

## **Individuals**

4<sup>th</sup> place - Lieutenant Rodney S. Vaughan







# 111th Recruit School



Firefighter  
Joshua R. Allen  
Station 27, B-Shift



Firefighter  
Julie A. Bienlien  
Station 10, A-Shift



Firefighter  
Donald G. Clemens, Jr.  
Station 36, C-Shift



Firefighter  
MaryKate Costello  
Station 13, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Evans G. Edwards  
Station 11, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Vincent Flores  
Station 27, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Mark E. Huehn  
Station 21, A-Shift



Firefighter  
Vernon Johnson  
Station 31, A-Shift



Firefighter  
Kimberly A. Klaren  
Station 17, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Jason R. Munt  
Station 15, B-Shift



Firefighter  
Easton Peterson  
Station 29, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Tracey M. Reed  
Station 10, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Christopher L. Rhodes  
Station 13, A-Shift



Firefighter  
Kimberly A. Schoppa  
Station 22, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Iris O. Shaw  
Station 11, B-Shift



Firefighter  
Joseph Marie L. Vogtembing  
Station 36, B-Shift



Firefighter  
William F. Ward  
Station 38, C-Shift



Firefighter  
Harold B. Wolf  
Station 9, C-Shift

# American Red Cross National Capital Area Chapter

By Steve O'Brien  
Disaster Preparedness Coordinator  
Fairfax/Falls Church Office

**E**ach year, the American Red Cross responds immediately to more than 67,000 disasters nationwide, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous materials spills, transportation accidents, and other man-made and natural disasters which affect a large number of people. The majority of American Red Cross disaster responses are to house and apartment fires, which you respond to everyday.

On the morning of June 11, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel responded to a condominium fire at the Victoria Crossings community at Manchester Lakes near Kingstowne. The fire displaced 18 families from their apartment-style condominiums. Many citizens and public servants do not realize the immediate relief that is provided by the American Red Cross Disaster Action Teams. Disaster Action Teams are on call 24 hours a day to provide disaster victims with their immediate needs to allow them to begin their recovery.

During a given disaster, Red Cross teams receive word of an emergency from local fire or police departments. They are dispatched to the scene to provide assistance to the victims. Red Cross disaster relief efforts focus on meeting people's immediate, disaster-caused needs. When a disaster threatens or strikes, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, clothing, health, and mental health services to address basic human needs. In addition to these services, the core of Red Cross relief is the assistance given to individuals and families affected by disaster to enable them to resume their normal daily activities independently. Red Cross workers interview families to determine their needs and

conduct damage assessments to verify the need for assistance. At the Manchester Lakes fire, the American Red Cross, with the assistance of a local church, provided close to 375 meals for the victims, emergency personnel, and Red Cross and community volunteers. During fiscal year 2003, we provided assistance to 206 families in Fairfax County. Many of the essentials are provided by issuing victims client assistance cards, which are debit cards that the clients can use to purchase essential items at local retail stores. In some cases, congregate shelters are set up when groups of families are displaced, and other times they receive hotel accommodations provided by the American Red Cross. In response to the Manchester Lakes fire, the American Red Cross set up a shelter at the Calvary Road Baptist Church.

The American Red Cross is prepared to provide families with immediate relief when families have been displaced and belongings have been destroyed. It only takes a telephone call to get us moving. Thank you for ensuring that the American Red Cross is informed when a family has been displaced by a fire or other disaster, by calling 703-805-2057 during the day and 703-378-4044 after hours. ❖



Fire Boat 420 was placed into service in May of 2004. The 36-foot boat has both firefighting and EMS capabilities.



## **Physical Therapy Services New to the Public Safety Occupational Health Center**

**T**he Safety and Personnel Services Division would like to introduce Julie Edelson who joined the Public Safety Occupational Health Center (PSOHC) staff offering on site physical therapy services. Ms. Edelson brings 21 years of clinical rehabilitation experience in orthopedic, cardiac, pulmonary, and occupational rehabilitation to the new physical therapy clinic located next to the B Level Massey Building gym. In addition to clinic-based professional services, Ms. Edelson has performed a variety of industrial and office job analyses, ergonomic evaluations, and provided case management services to injured workers in order to facilitate safe return to work coordination. She also holds certifications in Industrial Ergonomics and Fire Service Peer Fitness Training. Julie is working with Lieutenant Rodney Vaughan, Peer Fitness Coordinator, on clinical treatment tools, therapeutic equipment, educational resources,

and injury prevention strategies to meet the needs of the public safety personnel.

Ms. Edelson's arrival is in line with the continued development of the IAFF/IAFC Wellness/Fitness initiative within the Fire and Rescue Department. Dr. Donald Stewart, PSOHC Director, included Ms. Edelson to meet the rehabilitation prong of this five prong initiative. The IAFF/IAFC Wellness/Fitness Initiative includes:

- Medical Evaluation
- Fitness Testing and Exercise
- Rehabilitation
- Behavioral Health Promotion; and
- Data Collection

In order to facilitate continuity between rehabilitation and safe return to field work, Ms. Edelson and Lieutenant Vaughan have been

(continued on page 27)



## Community Thank You

September 3, 2004

Dear Fire Chief:

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank the men and women who helped to save my husband's life back on the afternoon of April 8, 2004. If it were not for these individuals I would no longer have a husband nor would our three-year-old daughter have a father. I am asking if you could take the time, as precious as it may be and find it in your heart to help me thank the men and women whose names I will include. I am asking if you could see to it that each of these hero's receive a copy of the attached individually addressed letters. Ideally I would love to eventually be able to arrange some sort of brief meeting so that I myself could shake the God blessed hands of these touched men and women who save lives every day. I know it may be difficult or even too much to ask to schedule a meeting since there are 14 people that I wish to meet but I would be willing to take several trips to do so and only ask to take up just a few short minutes of their time. What I

will do is leave all of our information and they may use it if they choose. If a meeting is not at all possible please know that I thank each of you with all of my heart for helping to spare my husband's life as God saw fit.

I apologize for it taking almost five months for me to get this letter in the mail but I am sure you will understand. My husband has had four surgeries on his right leg since the accident and continues to attend physical therapy several times a week. In addition, it took me some time to contact the right people in order to get the names of the rescuers.

Please if anyone could help see my wish come true, please feel free to contact me anytime day or night as I know you must work long and crazy schedules.

Thank you again with all of heart,  
Melanie Wallace

October 4, 2004

Hello,

My name is Logan George, and I live in the Mount Vernon Square Apartments on Richmond Highway, in Fairfax County. On Thursday night there was a call to a building in my cul-de-sac, I was very, very, very impressed with the way that the county fire and rescue department responded. I was sure no matter what the problem, you guys would fix it. It turned out to be nothing in the end, but if anything had been wrong, I am positive that it would have been dealt with in a swift manner.

I would like to thank the men and women who make all of us feel safe, you work very hard with little recognition, and I for one thank you for making me feel safe in my own home, knowing that you guys are here to help. Thank you again, God bless you.

With much gratitude,  
Logan George

## Platelet Donation Number 250



Master Technician David Ashley, Fire and Rescue Station 38, A-Shift, donates platelets for the 250th time at the Inova Blood Donor Center in Centreville, Virginia.

**Line Copy can be viewed on the Fairfax County  
Fire and Rescue Department web site.  
Our web site address is:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire>**

# Not Your Typical Elevator Incident

By Captain II Floyd L. Ellmore  
Fire and Rescue Station 10, A-Shift

**O**n February 23, 2004, at 9:58 a.m., Engine and Truck 410 were dispatched for an elevator incident at 5275 Leesburg Pike. While enroute, units were advised by the Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) that the occupants inside the elevator reported that the elevator dropped five stories. Additional information added that there were five people inside the elevator that would require medical attention and two large safes weighing 1,000 pounds each. An immediate request was made for additional EMS units, as well as Rescue 418 and Fairfax One.

The building is a five-story office building with two floors below grade. There are three banks of electric traction elevators. Two of the banks are regular passenger elevators that service each floor. The other is the service elevator which is confined in a blind shaft.

Upon arrival, Engine and Truck 410 entered the structure and were advised by the building engineer that the car had dropped five floors and people with injuries were trapped inside. The extent of the injuries were unknown.

Once inside, it was determined that our communications were ineffective due to the building construction type. With that in mind, Lieutenant Marshall (Engine 410) and Captain Ellmore (Truck 410) formulated an action plan that would allow command to communicate to the units inside the structure on the "O" channel and personal Nextels.

Truck 410 went to the lower levels to access the shaft so the elevator location could be determined. An elevator mechanic arrived on the scene within minutes. With assistance from the elevator mechanic, we learned that the elevator was located in the shaft between the third and fourth floor. A firefighter was sent to the elevator penthouse to secure the power to the service elevator along with the elevator

mechanic.

Once on the fourth floor, we attempted to access the car through the doors, however, this proved to be too complicated to accomplish due to one of the safes resting against the doors. Therefore, it was agreed upon by the elevator mechanic and Rescue 418 that the best access was from above utilizing a lowering system that would lower a firefighter to the car to enter from the top through the roof hatch. Due to the amount of weight already in the car, we made the decision not to add any additional weight to the car for fear of causing it to fall farther down the shaft.

During the assessment of the event and after discussion with the elevator mechanic, there was some concern about the stability of the elevator. Due to this concern, the Incident Commander (IC) requested a second Technical Rescue Company and the Technical Rescue Services Unit (TRSU). All of the Technical Rescue Operation Team Rescue Companies have been outfitted with additional rigging equipment to assist with stabilizing elevator cars.

There was a division assigned to manage the fourth floor and coordinate their efforts with the Medical and Rescue Groups. Each Group and the Division operated under the direction of the IC. An action plan was formulated and work began to extricate the people from the elevator.

Throughout the incident rescuers supplied water to the victims inside the elevator car, and maintained continuous communications with them in an effort to keep them calm and to reassure them that they would be safely rescued.

Once the action plan was in place, the rescue group coordinated with the division commander and lowered a rescue member to the top of the car. Once in place, the rescuer released the car doors allowing access from the opposite side of the car. The occupants were immediately

assessed by the EMS Group Supervisor and patients that were able to exit did so by means of an attic ladder placed inside the car.

The rescue member then lowered himself down into the car and assessed the remaining occupants. It was determined that one would require a neck collar and back board for removal due to injuries incurred by the safe falling on him.

While this event was very successful, there are a couple areas that can help out in future similar events. Specifically, the communications between command and personnel on the inside could have worked much better if we would have had the mobile repeaters on the scene from the beginning of the event. The cell phones and "O" channel worked intermittently making runners the communications link between command and the interior division and groups.

These elevator incidents are typically easy to address, however, we must be prepared to meet the challenges like the one presented to the members at Fire and Rescue Station 10. These challenges can be successful through company awareness and training with these type elevators.

There are a number of individuals in our department that have expertise in elevator operations including, Battalion Chief Al Mullins, Battalion 5, B-Shift and Captain Larry Jenkins, Fire and Rescue Station 31, C-Shift.

As with any incident, we must keep in mind that there are no "typical incidents." We must stay prepared through training and education to meet the many challenges presented to us on a daily basis. ❖



Participants of the Third Annual Motorcycle Poker Run are ready to roll on Sunday, September 5, 2004. The participants of the run raised \$800 to benefit the Firefighters' Fund of Fairfax County.

## Community Thank You

Dear Chief Neuhard,

I want to thank you and the firemen who helped me last night.

Not a fire or an accident but something that was needed and helped me sleep better last night. I tried to get up the courage to get on a small ladder I used to do easily, but after a bad fall in my own yard last March and old age creeping up much too quickly, I just could not check on my three smoke alarms.

Finally I recalled the wonderful service that you folks provided with the smoke detector service and got out my outdated Fairfax County Book. There I had written the name of the fireman who last came here along with the West Springfield Fire and Rescue Service on Rolling Road. I called and Kevin Slack said he would speak to this captain and that some folks would be out to check to see if the alarms were working. Sure enough in no time at all Truck 427 pulled up and three firemen went right to work. They were Lieutenant Todd Hall, Master Technician Keith Curriden, and Firefighter Alexander Obert.

The men suggested that I mark my calendar to have the alarms checked every six months—something I had forgotten to do. I also got the idea to take and empty a prescription bottle and include that with my box of medicines with the notation "Alarm check June 2 and December 2 on smoke alarms. Inside the bottle I will add the note where new batteries might be, as well as instructions— and surely during birthday and holiday season someone who is much younger and sturdier than I will come by and check out the alarms. It's a great help to me.

Sorry my typing is about as rusty as my limbs but I will send this one for I might forget to say thank you and I do thank each and every one of you.

Sincerely Yours,  
Mrs. Barbara Matthews

# Hot Shots



A Virginia State Trooper was extricated from his vehicle on the shoulder of Interstate 495 near Gallows Road. The trooper was sitting in his vehicle writing a summons when he was struck in the rear by a motorist. The trooper was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital with minor injuries. Photo by Sheldon Levi.



A three-alarm fire resulted in three fatalities and one injury at a condominium fire at 6911- 6917 Mary Caroline Circle in the Kingstowne/Franconia area. Occupants from three of the units, totaling 18 condominiums, were displaced. Fire investigators determined the fire to be accidental, an unattended candle was left burning on a ground floor patio. Estimated damage was \$3.8 million.

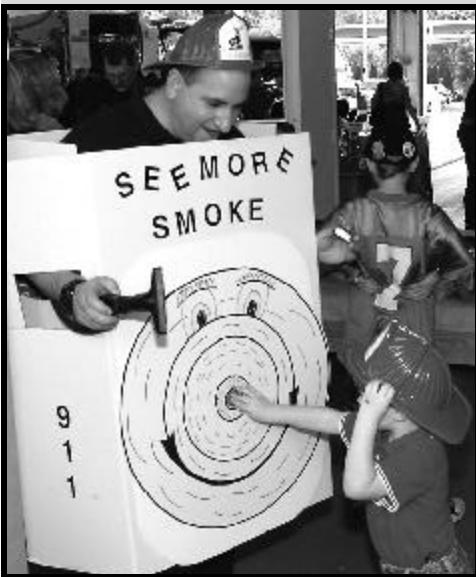


The driver of a utility van struck a pole on Route 236 on Braddock Road. The patient was pinned in by the dashboard. Rescue units from 418 and 426 extricated the patient who was transported by ground to Inova Fairfax Hospital. Photo by Wesley Gerald.



First arriving firefighters reported fire and smoke coming from a bedroom on the second floor of the home located at 7210 Tyler Avenue in Falls Church. The fire was brought under control in approximately 35 minutes. Five adults and nine children were displaced.

# 2004 Fire Prevention Week Open House





# Fairfax County Fire and Res



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 1**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 4**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 8**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 9**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 18**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 21**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 22**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 26**



**Fire and Rescue  
Station 37**



**Academy**



**Battalion 2**



**Fire Investigator**



**Hazardous Materials  
Response Team**



**Honor Guard**

## Special

## Volunteer Fire



**McLean  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**Vienna  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**Franconia  
Volunteer  
Fire and Rescue Department**



**Annandale  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**Bailey's Crossroads  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**Great Falls  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



# Department Station Patches



County  
Fire Department



Fire and Rescue  
Station 28



Fire and Rescue  
Station 11



Fire and Rescue  
Station 13



Fire and Rescue  
Station 15



Fire and Rescue  
Station 17



Fire and Rescue  
Station 29



Fire and Rescue  
Station 30



Fire and Rescue  
Station 31



Fire and Rescue  
Station 36

## Patches



Logistics



Marine Operations



Office of the  
Fire Marshal



Virginia Task Force 1



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Fire and Rescue  
Station 39

## Department Patches



Lorton Volunteer  
Fire Department



Burke Volunteer  
Fire and Rescue Department



Centreville  
Volunteer Fire  
Department



Lorton  
Volunteer  
Fire Department



Fair Oaks  
Volunteer  
Fire and Rescue Department



Greater Springfield  
Volunteer  
Fire Department

# Large Loss Fire Investigations

<b>Date:</b> 03/03/04 <b>Box:</b> 4407 <b>Address:</b> 1306 Loop Court <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$475,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$475,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 03/04/04 <b>Box:</b> 2702 <b>Address:</b> 9006 Grovers Theater Court <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Candle <b>Value:</b> \$400,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$200,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 03/04/04 <b>Box:</b> 4212 <b>Address:</b> 120 Locust Street S. W. <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$210,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$100,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 03/10/04 <b>Box:</b> 1802 <b>Address:</b> 2913 Dover Lane <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$1,000,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$100,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 03/12/04 <b>Box:</b> 1810 <b>Address:</b> 7482 Lee Highway <b>Type:</b> Commercial <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Radiant Heat <b>Value:</b> \$10,000,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$150,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 03/13/04 <b>Box:</b> 3105 <b>Address:</b> 11308 Stoneledge Court <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Lamp <b>Value:</b> \$4,000,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$300,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 03/30/04 <b>Box:</b> 0943 <b>Address:</b> 8017 Capistrano Place <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Candle <b>Value:</b> \$140,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$100,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 04/04/04 <b>Box:</b> 1912 <b>Address:</b> 8705 LaGrange Street <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Incendiary <b>Value:</b> \$525,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$200,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 04/08/04 <b>Box:</b> 0322 <b>Address:</b> 5209 Pumphrey Drive <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Smoking <b>Value:</b> \$400,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$150,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 04/15/04 <b>Box:</b> 4408 <b>Address:</b> 1124 Bicksler Drive <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Undetermined <b>Value:</b> \$240,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$150,000 <b>Status:</b> Inactive
<b>Date:</b> 04/19/04 <b>Box:</b> 2404 <b>Address:</b> 3800 Great Neck Court <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Fan <b>Value:</b> \$412,680 <b>Loss:</b> \$150,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 05/02/04 <b>Box:</b> 1716 <b>Address:</b> 14631 Compton Road <b>Type:</b> Commercial <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Fan <b>Value:</b> \$225,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$150,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 05/12/04 <b>Box:</b> 0823 <b>Address:</b> 4535 Pinecrest Heights Drive <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Combustibles <b>Value:</b> \$269,625 <b>Loss:</b> \$100,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 05/19/04 <b>Box:</b> 3404 <b>Address:</b> 2218 Halcyon Lane <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Kitchen <b>Value:</b> \$1,700,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$500,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 05/23/04 <b>Box:</b> 0900 <b>Address:</b> 1109 Custis Street <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Smoking <b>Value:</b> \$600,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$150,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 06/08/04 <b>Box:</b> 3906 <b>Address:</b> 1519 Stuart Road <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Smoking <b>Value:</b> \$650,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$650,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 06/24/04 <b>Box:</b> 2606 <b>Address:</b> 6254 Bren Mar Drive <b>Type:</b> Vehicle <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Extension <b>Value:</b> \$540,097 <b>Loss:</b> \$153,800 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 07/11/04 <b>Box:</b> 0529 <b>Address:</b> 6917 Mary Caroline Circle <b>Type:</b> Residential <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Candle <b>Value:</b> \$9,000,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$3,875,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 07/29/04 <b>Box:</b> 3111 <b>Address:</b> 12005 Sunrise Valley Drive <b>Type:</b> Commercial <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$15,984,457 <b>Loss:</b> \$228,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed

# Community Program Highlights



## 2004 Fill The Boot Campaign

Well, I honestly don't know what to say. I am searching for words to express my thanks to everyone for the incredible effort that was displayed during our Fill the Boot Campaign. We raised a total of \$342,550. I think it's fair to say that everyone involved had their expectations far exceeded. I would like to thank a lot of individual stations and the Public Safety Communications Center, but at the risk of excluding someone I'm not going to try. Please be assured that your efforts did not go unnoticed by anyone in our department or everyone at the telethon. It was very amazing to see all of the reactions from the Muscular Dystrophy Association staff and a lot of the children and families who are affected by this disease as we did the check presentations. I almost felt like a rock star over there with

people coming up to us offering their words of thanks. It was especially heartwarming when the kids would thank us and say they are looking forward to going to camp next year thanks to the money we raised. So on behalf of Rick Roatch and myself, THANK YOU very much for all your hard work.

Captain I Ronald A. Gemsheim  
Fire and Rescue Station 30  
B-Shift

## Top 10 Activity Report

### May/August 2004

#### Ambulance

Unit	Calls
A 413	957
A 409	927
A 408	922
A 430	801
A 411	743
A 434	693
A 438	671
A 410	665
A 414	646
A 428	640

#### Engine Company

Unit	Calls
E 410	1315
E 422	1277
E 409	1209
E 408	1207
E 425	1144
E 429	1126
E 404	1124
E 411	1122
E 421	1093
E 413	1086

#### Rescue Company

Unit	Calls
R 421	728
R 426	655
R 418	570
R 401	542
R 411	484
R 439	463
R 419	454
R 414	412
R 490	2

#### Medic

Unit	Calls
M 418	1351
M 422	1223
M 421	1194
M 426	1146
M 408	1103
M 410	1079
M 417	1071
M 404	1070
M 425	1066
M 415	1062

#### Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains

Unit	Calls
EMS 404	813
EMS 405	645
EMS 402	626
EMS 406	588
EMS 401	534
BC 404	338
BC 403	284
BC 406	259
BC 402	239
BC 401	219

#### Ladder Company

Unit	Calls
T 425	857
T 429	774
T 410	749
T 422	582
T 408	534
T 430	519
T 438	468
T 411	431
T 436	269
T 401	419

Unit activity is compiled from the event history file. A unit must be dispatched to a call or added on to be counted. Mutual aid dispatches are included in the activity report.



Public Safety Communications Center personnel, left to right, Captain Gregory McIntosh, Julee Erdmann, Susanne Malone, Cindy Roatch, and Janice Kanli, prepared a scrumptious meal for personnel at Fire and Rescue Station 30. Firefighters at Fire and Rescue Station 30 were the winners of the "Fill the Boot Campaign, Local 2068," for Muscular Dystrophy. Photo by Lieutenant Raul Castillo.

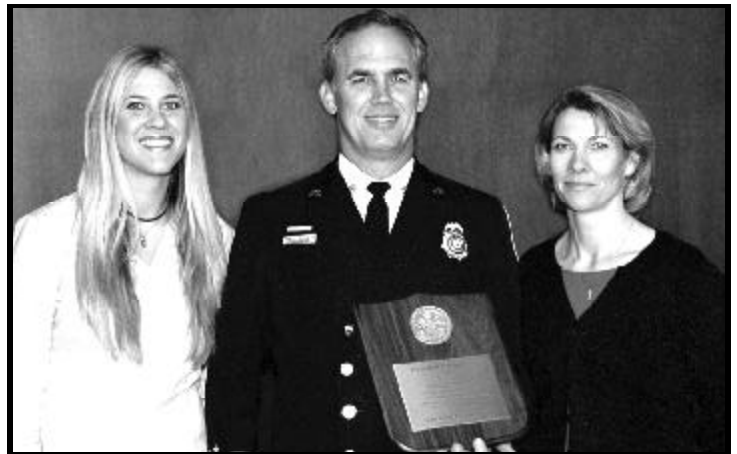




Department personnel who were promoted at the Second Quarter Promotional Ceremony on June 14, 2004, are as follows. Front row, left to right: Battalion Chief Thomas W. Graling, Battalion 1, B-Shift; Captain I Sandra K. Caple, Fire Chief's Office; Lieutenant Timothy A. Sparrow, Fire and Rescue Station 25, C-Shift; Lieutenant Michael J. Fischer, Fire and Rescue Station 29, A-Shift; Captain I Jay D. Braithwaite, Fire and Rescue Station 22, C-Shift; Technician Keith E. Curriden, Fire and Rescue Station 27, C-Shift. Back row, left to right: Lieutenant Rodney S. Vaughn, Occupational Health and Safety; Lieutenant Richard H. Schaub, Fire and Rescue Station 36, C-Shift; Acting Captain II Reginald O. Lassiter, EMS Battalion 1, B-Shift; Deputy Chief Andrew D. Snead, EMS Administration; Lieutenant Trenton L. Houghton, Communications; Captain I Felicia L. Edwards, Fire and Rescue Station 27, B-Shift.



Battalion Chief Leonard Murry (left) and Deputy Chief Dereck A. Baker (right) present Master Technician Paul Plaugher, Fire and Rescue Station 16, B-Shift, with a Career Achievement Award for 25 Years of Safe Driving on September 11, 2004.



Battalion Chief John Caussin received the A. Heath Onthank Award for his extraordinary dedication in assisting the residents and businesses of the Belle View/New Alexandria area as the senior Fire and Rescue Department official. Battalion Chief Caussin managed the unprecedented response in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel. The Onthank Award was established by the Board of Supervisors in 1966 to honor the memory of Colonel A. Heath Onthank, (U.S. Army, Retired), the first chairman of the Fairfax County Civil Service Commission. He served in this capacity from 1957 to 1962 and proved to be a guiding force in the County's career merit system. Battalion Chief Caussin with wife Pam, right, and daughter Terra.

# Awards & Presentations

## Career Achievement Award

Captain II Floyd L. Ellmore  
 Captain II Gary W. Winemiller  
 Acting Captain II James J. Walsh  
 Lieutenant Peter J. Michel  
 Master Technician John C. Berner  
 Master Technician Kerry R. Jackson  
 Master Technician Randy H. Propst  
 Master Technician Robert L. Upchurch  
 Technician Thomas P. Feehan  
 Technician John M. Smith

## Meritorious Service Award

Deputy Chief John A. Burke  
 Captain II Dean W. Cox  
 Acting Captain II Richard A. Roatch  
 Lieutenant David P. Comrad  
 Lieutenant Todd M. Marshall  
 Technician Mark A. Nash  
 Lieutenant Natalie D. Robb  
 Lieutenant John W. Rogers  
 Firefighter Michael L. Frames

## 3 Year Safe Driving

Lieutenant William A. Garrett  
 Lieutenant Keith M. Ludeman  
 Lieutenant Sheree E. Melton  
 Technician Michael W. Engelhardt  
 Technician Mark E. Fiddler  
 Technician Britt M. Lauler  
 Firefighter Michael O. Feaster  
 Firefighter Annette LaGuardia  
 Firefighter Brian P. Moore  
 Firefighter Derrick L. Penny  
 Firefighter David P. Saunders  
 Firefighter Jason D. Updegraff  
 Firefighter Colleen M. Wuckovich

## 6 Year Safe Driving

Captain I James E. Lee  
 Captain I Milton L. Painter  
 Lieutenant Arnold J. Barrow  
 Lieutenant Richard D. Hoyle  
 Lieutenant Charles A. Martin  
 Lieutenant Stephen E. Miller  
 Lieutenant Charles D. Mills  
 Lieutenant Elton W. Polen  
 Lieutenant Ronald C. Sacra  
 Master Technician Kenneth M. Laverock  
 Master Technician James A. Perkins  
 Master Technician Thomas C. Williams  
 Technician Derek A. Edwards  
 Technician Charles W. Horton  
 Technician Mark C. Johnson  
 Technician Michael T. King  
 Technician William S. Moreland  
 Technician Christopher M. Morgan  
 Technician John R. Mudge

Technician Michael C. Nelson  
 Technician Brian J. Nix  
 Technician Michael L. Sease  
 Technician John M. Stetter  
 Technician David H. Stroup  
 Firefighter Marlon J. Crockett  
 Firefighter Jeffrey L. Mongold  
 Firefighter Asia N. Stoltmann  
 Firefighter Jason D. Triplett

## 15 Year Safe Driving

Lieutenant Carlton Chatman  
 Lieutenant Ronald B. Sydnor  
 Master Technician George C. Hood  
 Master Technician Joseph M. Kratochvil  
 Master Technician Jack L. Walmer  
 Master Technician Kelly W. Woolf  
 Technician John P. Jones  
 Technician Terry J. Snyder  
 Technician David D. Sweetland  
 Firefighter Eric D. Britton  
 Firefighter Charles A. Harman  
 Firefighter John D. Leary  
 Firefighter George N. Pancione

## Citizen Valor Award

Miss Andrea Copeland  
 Mr. Ivan Duncan  
 Mr. Anthony Escobar  
 Mr. Marvin Escobar  
 Mr. David Foust  
 Mr. Carlos Jones  
 Mr. John Keen  
 Mr. John Redman  
 Ms. Ashley Ritz  
 Mr. Alex Romero

## Unit Citation

Fairfax County Parkway/  
 Lee Highway

## Medic 421

Lieutenant Charles A. Martin  
 Technician John R. Mudge  
 Firefighter James T. Martin

## Rescue 421

Lieutenant William M. Best  
 Master Technician Randy H. Propst  
 Technician Thomas P. Feehan

## Engine 421

Captain I David L. Warner  
 Technician Charles W. Horton  
 Technician Michael T. King  
 Technician John L. Smith

## Medic 417

Lieutenant William M. Bertone  
 Technician Piers C. Osborn  
 Firefighter Daniel T. Hahn

## Bellehaven-New Alexandria Engine 411

Lieutenant Veckser T. Nesmith  
 Technician Adam C. Brock  
 Technician William J. Atwell  
 Firefighter Gary P. Thompson

## Truck 411

Master Technician James R. Low  
 Captain I Larry E. Jenkins  
 Technician Thomas A. Zirkle  
 Firefighter Ryan J. Ward

## Rescue 426

Acting Captain II James J. Walsh  
 Technician John C. Guy  
 Master Technician Robert L. Burlingame  
 Technician Randall K. Schwartz

## Ambulance 411

Firefighter Marc O. Saldivar  
 Firefighter Christopher H. Williams

## Medic 411

Lieutenant Robert Ange  
 Technician Raymond K. Beaver

## Brush 411

Technician Carl E. Drew  
 Firefighter Christopher Sampl

3847 Pinewood Lane

## Engine 410

Lieutenant Troy H. Dean  
 Technician Karl D. Roche  
 Firefighter Danny C. Doyle  
 Acting Technician Michael S. Snapp

## Rescue 426

Lieutenant David K. Gruendel  
 Technician Terrance L. Fayson  
 Technician James T. Franklin

## Truck 410

Master Technician Michael C. Lewis  
 Firefighter Eli Darren Baskerville  
 Firefighter Brenden J. Petersburg

6166 Leesburg Pike

**Medic 418**

Lieutenant James D. Wilson

Lieutenant Craig S. Luecke

Interstate 95 South Lorton Exit

**Rescue 419**

Lieutenant Kenneth A. Wildman

Technician Robert W. Dickerson

Firefighter Kevin F. Reyes

Waples Mill Road/ Fox Mill Road

**Rescue 421**

Master Technician Randy H. Propst

Lieutenant William M. Best

Technician Chris M. Matsos

Technician Charles W. Horton

**Engine 434**

Master Technician Glenn A. Mason

Acting Captain II Richard A. Roatch

Master Technician Robert A. Joy

Firefighter Stephen J. Painter

**Ambulance 434**

Firefighter Kyung S. Ha

Technician Mickey A. Deans

**Hazmat 434/Hazmat Support Unit**

Master Technician Sean J. O'Connor

Lieutenant E. Martin Ranck

Technician Ronald J. Kuley

Technician Mark P. Menton

Technician David A. Hessler

Technician Lillie Allen-Peyton

Interstate 495 at Van Dorn Street

**Engine 422**

Lieutenant Thomas R. Mayhew

Technician Jeffrey S. Seabright

Firefighter Joel J. Kobersteen

Technician Charles A. Williams

**Rescue 426**

Lieutenant Christopher M. Brown

Technician Eric D. Moore

Technician Robert C. Scott

Technician Terry J. Snyder

Lieutenant Edmond D. Monseur

**Engine 426**

Captain I Glenn F. Tschann

Technician Anthony L. Cabrera

Technician Thomas A. Ferguson

Technician Glenn W. Dressler

**Medic 426**

Lieutenant James J. Masiello

Acting Technician Michael S. Snapp

**Medic 422**

Lieutenant John M. Cheseck

Firefighter Christopher H. Williams

Firefighter Michael S. Taylor

**EMS 405**

Captain II Glenn A. Bydume

**Team Performance Award**

Interstate 95 South

**Engine 422**

Lieutenant Thomas R. Mayhew

Technician Jeffrey S. Seabright

Firefighter Joel J. Kobersteen

Firefighter Michael S. Taylor

**Ambulance 437**

Technician Milton Goldsmith

Firefighter John E. Smith

**Medic 422**

Lieutenant John M. Cheseck

Lieutenant Bonnie J. Tobalske

**Rescue 419**

Lieutenant Kenneth A. Wildman

Technician Robert W. Dickerson

Firefighter Gary P. Thompson

Lieutenant Todd S. Hall

8344 Traford Lane

**Engine 427**

Technician Michael L. Skeele

Lieutenant Kevin P. Edwards

Firefighter Stephen D. Edwards

Firefighter Elton L. Short

**Medic 432**

Captain I Thomas W. Ryan

Lieutenant Dale R. Moxley

6118 Leesburg Pike

**Engine 428**

Captain I Tony C. Kostecka

Master Technician Kenneth M. Laverock

Lieutenant Kevin P. Edwards

Firefighter Timothy J. Pais

8718 Stark Road

**Engine 423**

Acting Captain II John W. Morris

Technician Timothy D. James

Technician Jill F. Young

Firefighter Ronnie O. Carter

**Medic 427**

Lieutenant Gregory W. Hunter

Lieutenant Walter A. Deihl

**Ambulance 414**

Technician Stephen J. Meyer

Technician Michael D. Moore

Fairfax County Parkway/Lee Highway

**Engine 417**

Captain I Walter E. Johnson

Lieutenant Cheryl L. Kemp

Master Technician James M. Breslin

Firefighter Michael R. Zdunski

**Ambulance 434**

Technician Mickey A. Deans

Firefighter Kyung S. Ha

**EMS 401**

Captain II Larry L. Collier



Captain I Eric F. Cunningham presents Firefighter Clayton Thompson III, Fire and Rescue Station 35, B-Shift, an award for heroism from Firehouse Magazine. Firefighter Thompson was recognized by Fairfax County and Firehouse Magazine for heroism.



**FFX01**

Pilot Daniel Bittner  
Flight Officer Paramedic Paul Dehaven  
Flight Officer Paramedic Joseph M. Flynn

**Rescue Engine 433**

Captain Greg Thuot  
Technician Page Witacre  
Fire Medic Jason Groves

**Haz-Mat Unit Project****Operations**

Captain II Gary R. Pope  
Captain I Milton L. Painter  
Technician Joseph P. Gorman  
Technician Joseph M. Kratochvil  
Technician Glenn A. Mason  
Technician Sean J. O'Connor  
Technician Jeffrey L. Smith  
Technician Jack L. Walmer

**Systems**

Steve Dennis

**Apparatus Section**

Paul Carlin  
Joseph Chesak  
Anthony Clayborn  
Steve Dunn  
Michael Keeler  
Richard Mock

**Engine 419 Project**

Master Technician Robert L. Upchurch  
Technician Aron J. Corwin  
Firefighter Eric J. Bartholomew  
Firefighter James B. McKendree

**Medical Emergency****Engine 418**

Lieutenant David P. Conrad  
Master Technician Kent E. Watts  
Technician Timothy Kelly  
Technician Roderick J. Schmidt

**Medic 418**

Lieutenant Phillip M. Duckwitz  
Lieutenant James Morris

8571 Richmond Highway

**Engine 424**

Lieutenant Danny J. Daniels  
Lieutenant William A. Garrett  
Technician Oscar T. Wells  
Firefighter Mariano J. Siles

**Tower 424**

Master Technician Jerry L. Smith  
Firefighter Richard R. David  
Firefighter Clarke V. Slaymaker

**Medic 424**

Lieutenant Timothy N. Dunaway  
Firefighter Steven P. McCay

**Truck 427 Project****Resource Management**

Captain II Dean W. Cox  
Lieutenant Anthony P. Bull  
Lieutenant Verlon Williamson  
Master Technician Clyde M. Buchanan  
Master Technician Dallas V. Slemph

Robert F. Arrington  
Herbert H. Brown

Chris Devlin  
Christina Fisher  
Kim Klaren

Patrick MacKay  
Nate Moore  
Shaw Perry

Ronnie Reddington  
William E. Roberts

William G. Roberts  
Jarrod Schmidt  
Marty Smith

Linda Williams

**Apparatus Section**

Captain II Andrew Duke

Charlie Allen  
Brian Cannon  
Norm Catterton  
Paul Carlin

Joseph Chesak  
Anthony Clayborn  
Richard Dodge

Steve Dunn  
Carol Fancher

Jay Jordon  
Michael Keeler  
Richard Mock

**Suppression Personnel**

Lieutenant Mark L. Feaster  
Master Technician James R. Low  
Technician Eugene W. Beach  
Technician John K. Lilley

**Medic 427**

Lieutenant Gregory W. Hunter  
Lieutenant Walter A. Deihl

**Ambulance 414**

Technician Stephen J. Meyer  
Technician Michael D. Moore

**Nova Operations Review Board**

Battalion Chief Thomas V. Wolfe  
Battalion Chief Mark T. Kane  
Deputy Chief John A. Burke  
Acting Captain II James J. Walsh

Arlington Boulevard

**Engine 418**

Lieutenant Ben Dye  
Technician Matthew J. Brecht  
Firefighter William M. Schnaekel  
Firefighter Jeffrey D. Tubaugh

**Rescue 418**

Technician Thomas R. Barnes  
Captain I Gary B. Bunch  
Master Technician Christian A. Bastin

**Medic 418**

Lieutenant Ronald C. Sacra  
Technician Alison Jaquays

7125 Marc Drive

**Engine 418**

Lieutenant Ben A. Dye  
Firefighter Christopher H. Williams  
Firefighter Garner Marshall  
Firefighter Jeffrey D. Tubaugh

**Medic 418**

Lieutenant Joseph D. Merritt  
Technician James P. Kotwicki

Interstate 95 South Lorton Exit

**Engine 419**

Lieutenant Michael G. McCullen  
Captain I James E. Lee  
Technician Eric D. McLaughlin  
Firefighter Gary P. Thompson

3908 Linda Lane

**Engine 408**

Captain I Steven D. Clark  
Master Technician Eric D. Forbach  
Technician Robert A. Downing  
Lieutenant David P. Tobin

**Tower 408**

Lieutenant Raymond E. Griffin  
Technician Allan B. Brockway  
Firefighter Dustin J. Cramer  
Firefighter Ramon M. Estrada

**Medic 408**

Lieutenant Ryland B. Kendrick  
Captain I Jerome I. Williams

**Ambulance 408**

Firefighter Colleen M. Chapman  
Firefighter Michael R. Boub

# Community Thank You

August 8, 2004

Chief Michael Neuhard  
Fairfax County Fire Department  
4100 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Chief Neuhard,

I am sending this letter as one of support and praise for the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department and specifically the captain and crew of your Fireboat 420. On the night of July 10, 2004, at about 2345 hours your vessel and crew responded to a boat accident on the Potomac River.

The incident involved a Searay 380 with eight persons onboard, which had gone off course and ran up onto the shore at Indian Head Naval Base, Charles County, Maryland. The vessel ended up about 50 feet out of the water and impacted a tree on shore.

I was returning from a fireworks display in Alexandria in a Potomac Marine towboat when the call for help came out over the radio. I immediately responded and located the vessel, and notified the Coast Guard, Charles County, and your Station 20 via VHF radio.

Fairfax Fireboat 420 was the second fire/rescue vessel to arrive on the scene following Boat 7 of Charles County, which launches from Indian Head some 500 yards down stream. Captain Jim Chinn and his crew immediately began assessment and treatment of the injured, of which three were flown out and five were transported BLS.

I sincerely believe that the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the crew of Boat 420 deserve high praise for the professional standards, response time, and quality equipment with which you operate. In having the VHF radio in the station they were able to have immediate knowledge of the incident as it evolved. The new Fireboat gave them the ability to respond safely at high speed in the dark of night by use of the state of the art electronics, and to have the proper equipment with which to handle a casualty of this magnitude.

I would like to add further that the training, cooperation, and interoperability, which were displayed that night, should be noted, praised, and encouraged throughout the response community.

Please keep up the good work and support the efforts as you have in the past for the services you provide to the waterfront and boating community of the Potomac River and Northern Virginia.

Sincerely,  
Captain Terry Hill  
President  
Potomac Marine Inc.



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

240 SPRING GARDEN STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123-2991

LLOYD AYERS  
FIRE COMMISSIONER

(215) 686 - 1300  
FAX (215) 922 - 3952

September 19, 2004

Mike Neuhard, Chief  
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue  
4100 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030-7001

Dear Chief Neuhard:

Thank you and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue for your support and representation at the funeral services for Captain John Taylor and Firefighter Rey Rubio. When such a tragedy occurs, there is a bond that tightens and draws us together even closer because we are all part of the magnificent family of Firefighters. The commitment and love that we all share for this profession is even more evident when tragedy occurs because, what happens to one of us, happens to all of us.

In times of such sadness and overwhelming grief, I believe that his wife, Charlene, and their three children, Lauren, Dan, and John, know how much his having made this ultimate sacrifice affected all of us and this may bring them some comfort.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lloyd Ayers".

Lloyd Ayers  
Fire Commissioner

LA/cjm



Some old timers may remember working at Engine 20 when it was located at the corner of Mount Vernon Boulevard and Gunston Road Way. It's unknown when the original building was built but the Gunston Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1959 and soon after started running calls out of their "new" quarters. All assets were turned over to the county in 1974 and in 1976, Engine 20 was moved to their new station at 10417 Gunston Road. The old firehouse is now the Gunston Manor Community Center. Photo by Lieutenant Michael G. McCullen, Fire and Rescue Station 19, C-Shift.

## Community Thank You

Dear Fire and Rescue Management,

A big thank you to David Shelton and his partner for their work on July 2nd.

They responded to my call concerning my granddaughter's broken foot. David put her, her grandmother, and me at ease and applied initial treatment. Then he and his partner transported her and her grandmother to a Fairfax County hospital and remained, keeping both calm, until I arrived.

The medical staff at the hospital was very impressed with his excellent stabilization and protection of my granddaughter's broken foot. They said that it held swelling to a minimum and would make a big difference in my granddaughter's recovery time and comfort over the next few days.

Thank you, David.

Sincerely,  
Randal Senn

# Taking Up



**Firefighter  
Larry W. Cox**

**Entry Date:** August 15, 1988

**Retirement Date:** July 31, 2004

**Assignments:** 15, 31, 27, and 16

### **Likes about the Fire**

**Department:** The fellowship and second family atmosphere, the challenges and opportunities to help those in need. One of the best and most satisfying careers anywhere.

### **Will miss about the Fire**

**Department:** All my friends and the station humor.

**Plans for the future:** Moving to central West Virginia, near a big lake, catch up on hunting and fishing, and spending the winters in Florida.

**Words of wisdom:** Keep a positive attitude and never give up on your goals.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** I was a volunteer for over 13 years before being able to do what I love and get paid for it.

### **Who or what made an influence in your career?**

Lieutenant Jeff Allen, Master Technician Dave Gaber, Retired Battalion Chief Tom Watson, and Technician Delbert Feaster.



**Lieutenant  
Matthew B. Myers**

**Entry Date:** January 23, 1995

**Retirement Date:** September 10, 2004

**Assignments:** 31, 34, 5, EMS Administration, 5, 24, 25, and 27

**Likes about the Fire**

**Department:** I sincerely enjoyed the immediate gratification associated with providing paramedic care to the public on a daily basis. I really enjoyed my brief tenure as a suppression lieutenant.

**Will miss about the Fire**

**Department:** I will miss the incredibly talented and smart personnel in this department who are perpetually untapped and essentially ignored. I will miss shift work, shift meals, and shift members.

**Plans for the future:** I am attending Georgetown University to obtain my Master's Degree in Bio-hazardous Threat Agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases by May 2005.

**Words of wisdom:** Always remember: 1) We are in the fire and rescue department to serve the public and not our egos or personal insecurities. 2) The shortest path between point A and point B is NOT a short-cut.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** Childhood memories of living three blocks away from Fire and Rescue

Station 2 in Vienna.

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** Who: Mike Kephart, Jimmy Ault, Paul Masiello, and Kevin Thomson.

What: Obtaining my paramedic certification from Sal Marini at George Washington University. Responding to the Pentagon Attack on September 11, 2001.



**Master Technician  
Paul S. Plaugher**

**Entry Date:** June 2, 1980

**Retirement Date:** September 30, 2004

**Assignments:** 51<sup>st</sup> Recruit School, 17, 30, Communications, 1, 17, 36, 17, and 16

**Likes about the Fire**

**Department:** The camaraderie of the firefighters, being able to help people in time of need.

**Will miss about the Fire**

**Department:** Running emergency calls and young brand new officers who think they are more important than they really are.

**Plans for the future:** Substitute teach, do more things around the house, spend more time with family, and still be active with sports at the high school level.

**Words of wisdom:** Stay safe, be courteous, and always treat people how you would want yourself or your family to be treated.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** My father, uncle, and cousins who were all volunteers at Fire and Rescue Station 13.

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** My father, my uncle Carl Plaugher Sr., My cousins retired Deputy Chiefs Ed and Carl Plaugher, Chief Gaines, Lieutenant Stanley Spencer, Lieutenant Butch Sisler, Captain Wil Snyder, Captain Jim Beadle, Captain George Sisson, and Captain Ricky Pray.

# Retirements

Firefighter

Larry W. Cox

August 15, 1988 - July 31, 2004

Technician

Louis J. Berkeszi

September 21, 1981 - June 11, 2004

Master Technician

Michael M. Huffman

May 21, 1979 - July 23, 2004

Firefighter

Gene E. Kelley, Jr.

May 21, 1979 - June 11, 2004

Technician

Kenneth M. Monteleone

May 21, 1979 - June 5, 2004

Master Technician

Paul S. Plaughter

June 2, 1980 - September 30, 2004

Lieutenant

Verlon Williamson

January 28, 1980 - July 23, 2004

# Anniversaries

## 5 Years

Adam Ashwood

Keith Baughan

Matthew J. Brecht

Tracy E. Crawford

Brian J. Bonkoski

Mickey A. Deans

Eric J. Doffermyre

Gregg J. Dojcek

John D. Evans

Michael J. Fontana

David M. Gilmore

Sean C. Green

Terry W. Hall

David W. Holland

In Sung Huang

Gregory W. Hunter

Peter Kosenko

Annette LaGuardia

Anne P. Reynolds

Jessica P. Spear

Gerald P. Nye

Douglas E. Turner

Craig M. White

Eric M. Wyatt

Thomas A. Zirkle

## 10 Years

Thomas R. Carver

Robert A. Clarke

Michael B. Davis

Vicki L. Dawson

Robert J. Desousa

Brett E. Fitzgerald

Robert W. Gusa

Gregory A. Keppley

Richard M. Lancing

Richard A. Mungo

Steven D. Norris

Edward Padgett

Allan Pearson

Andre D. Peterson

John F. Powers

Reginald K. Rodgers

Jeffrey D. Sargent

Barbara R. Silva

Karen D. Sterling

James R. Stricklen

B. Wayne Talbert

Mark O. Thompson

Christopher Tilles

Song Kyu Yi

Robert J. Zoldos

## 15 Years

Thomas R. Barnes

Cynthia L. Brown

Kevin R. Coen

Shirley A. Crawley

Troy H. Dean

Edward D. De Carlo

Kathleen M. Earl

William A. Garrett

David J. Higgins

William T. Hyden

Stephen M. Johnson

Walter E. Johnson

Todd M. Kable

Charles A. Martin

Shawn K. McPherson, Sr.

Damon O. Price

Catherine G. Schultz

Dana R. Unger

## 20 Years

Oscar L. Beasley

Karen A. Brinkley

Glenn A. Bydume

Cathleen C. Cody

Bruce C. Culpeper

Michael A. Deli

Duane M. Dodwell

Timothy N. Dunaway

Michael J. Garcia

Ronald A. Gemsheim

Richard K. Moxley

Randall K. Schwartz

David B. Shelton

Judy E. Taylor

Michael E. Torres

Michael White

## 25 Years

James B. Ault

Craig N. Buckley

William F. Bundy

John A. Burke

Patricia J. Devlin

Delos C. Dupree

Terrence L. Jenkins

Kevin L. Kincaid

William R. Kingdon

David G. Lange

Michael A. Lutrario

Paul S. Plaughter



Manson J. Pully  
Catherine A. Riley-Hall  
Douglas A. Shaw  
George L. Sisson

### 30 Years

Glenn P. Benarick  
Craig S. Furneisen  
Roger F. Harrison  
James C. Heider  
David M. McKernan  
Ronald C. Sacra

## New Hires

Frederick V. Agustin  
Joshua R. Allen  
Bernard D. Bickham  
Julie A. Bienlien  
Ricaute A. Chui  
Donald G. Clemens, Jr.  
Lauren E. Curtis  
Evans G. Edwards  
Vincent Flores  
Christina T. Franklin  
Toni E. Garcia  
Mark E. Huehn  
Alessandra C. Hurtado  
Vernon Johnson  
Kimberly A. Klaren  
Linda J. Lachapelle  
Jason Munt  
Constance L. Niebuhr  
Kai F. Pagani  
Easton Peterson  
Shedrick Qualls  
Tracey M. Reed  
Christopher L. Rhodes  
Andrew L. Rose  
Kimberly A. Schoppa  
Parisa Shahidi

Iris O. Shaw  
Joseph L. Vogtembing  
William F. Ward  
Harold B. Wolf



(continued from page 8)

developing a collaborative approach between rehabilitation and the peer fitness program. Due to the total body fitness needs of public safety personnel, an employee undergoing rehabilitation whose treating physician has agreed with a defined rehab/peer fitness approach, will have the opportunity to work with both physical therapy and peer fitness personnel. The goal is to provide a coordinated method of injury prevention and ongoing fitness training for employees returning to work after a work-related or non work-related injury.

The physical therapy clinic is available to public safety personnel who have been seen by a PSOHC physician or physician's assistant and have a referral for physical therapy services. The clinic is open part time hours and can be reached at 703-246-4955. ❖



Julie C. Edelson, Safety and Personnel Services, assists Captain I Lynn R. Jadot, Fire and Rescue Station 40, C-Shift, with physical therapy.



## **Station Profile**

### **Pohick**

### **Fire and Rescue**

### **Station #35**

**Captain II**  
**Troy D. Marshall**  
Station Commander

**Station constructed:** 1985

**Station specialty:** Engine, ambulance, Zodiac boat, spill control response vehicle.

**Square miles in first due area:** 18.5

**Specific hazardous/target areas:** Lots of rural areas with no water supply, several lakes, five elementary schools, large section of Fairfax County Parkway.

**Total calls in 2003:** 3,071

**Equipment assigned to station:** Engine, ambulance, boat, reserve truck, reserve pumper.

**Station personnel:** **A-Shift:** **Captain I Timothy W. Riffe**, Master Technician David S. Wright, Technician Kyle B. Anderson, Technician Damon O. Price, Firefighter Gordon E. Bennett, Firefighter Clevis R. Hooker, and Firefighter Kate Weatherby. **B-Shift:** **Captain I Eric F. Cunningham**, Master Technician James M. Moore, Technician Luis V. Rollins, Firefighter Trina L. Mosier, Firefighter Tae K. Pak, Firefighter Clayton Thompson, and Song Kyu Yi. **C-Shift:** **Captain II Troy D. Marshall**, Master Technician James H. Parson, Technician Gerald A. Barnes, Technician Davine M. Williams, Firefighter Donald O. Holland, Firefighter Brenda Pamperin, and Firefighter Kevin J. Steinhilber.

---

## **Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department**

Attn: Public Information and Life Safety Education Section  
4100 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

<b>PRST STD</b>
<b>U.S. POSTAGE</b>
<b>PAID</b>
<b>PERMIT 45</b>
<b>FAIRFAX, VA</b>

**Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed**  
**Address Correction Requested**